

The Central Seminary Bulletin

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XII

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No. 4

UNTO YOU IS BORN THIS DAY A SAVIOUR!

By Dr. Wesley J. Fuerst

Christmas is a unique holiday in that it is once an exclusively religious commemoration and a universally profane celebration. To millions of celebrants, Christmas is a time for a concentrated purification of personal and social desires. To believers, it is a time to praise and for the special fulfillment of the needs of the human race, and of the hope of the Advent promise.

We all have become accustomed to look of the Christmas season as a time when the hopes which it arouses are fulfilled. As we gather around the manger once more, to worship the Christ Child in a special celebration, each one needs beforehand to address himself to the questions, "What are my Christmas hopes? What causes the joy which I associate with Christmas?" The answers to these questions may prove to be a remarkably accurate indication of that which gives life meaning, of that which I serve. I am determined to live above all.

It is possible that Christ does not even answer immediately to us as the answer to these questions. We hope for, and are made happy by, gifts, from our friends, seasonal culinary delicacies, and cheery fellowship of friends and family. Christians, so-called, are also wont to evaluate the comparative success of the holiday and its joy in these terms. A birthday party may consist of all these elements, but the celebrants are insolent and disrespectful if they ignore the honored guest and relegate him to a corner, no matter how fervently they believe and insist that they are celebrating "in his honor."

The joyous message of Christmas, speaking to our deepest need and answering mankind's ultimate cry, removes us to a new level of life. It is an announcement of man's release from the bondage of his own perverse and hateful self, and the reality and identification of the salvation which God has wrought for mankind. It is a joyous proclamation to the afflicted and troubled—"Christ is born! Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good-will toward men!"

There is, to the one who has honestly asked himself questions as to the meaning in existence and life, no surer hope than that God loves him.

The message of Christmas is that we may be made new creatures. The gift of Christmas is that this is done through the grace and love of God. It is the Savior, Jesus Christ, born to us this day, Who, by living through us, by overcoming our perversity and obsession with self, by forgiving us, changes our lives and gives us Life. It is only this gift of God which brings to man the joy of Christmas. Only in the joy in the birth of a Savior does there come true the wish, for you, of a "Merry Christmas."

ST. OLAF CHOIR TO BE IN FREMONT FEBRUARY 1

World-famous St. Olaf Choir will appear in sacred concert at the City Auditorium in Fremont, Nebraska, on Sunday, February 1, 4:00 p.m., under the auspices of the Seminary. The choir, numbering 60 singers, in under the direction of Dr. Olaf C. Christiansen, son of the choir's founder, F. Melius Christiansen, and has been acclaimed for years, in our country and abroad as one of the best organizations of its kind. Among the members of the choir at this time is a daughter of Pastor and Mrs. Claudius Jensen, Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, Omaha, Nebraska. Tickets may be ordered through Dr. Wilhelm C. Linss or Professor G. Gieschen, co-chairmen in charge of arrangements. Publicity will be mailed to churches and schools in the Fremont area after the Christmas holidays.

THE DAY AFTER FINALS

by Dr. Edward J. Mattson

'Tis the day after finals (mid-year's, that is) and all through the halls and class rooms, offices and library not a creature is stirring, not a paper is rustling, not a bell is ringing, and not a versicle is beign chanted. In other words—the first semester has ended! And it is quiet here! The classroom doors have stopped swinging, no coffee is perking, the smoke at the end of the halls has

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From the President's Heart to Yours

Friends of Central Seminary:

Christmas is a time for warm hearts—and for the warming of hearts. To employ a phrase more familiar in Methodist circles, ours at Central have been “strangely warmed” during this season.



You will recall that in the last issue it was stated that we needed an RSV Bible for the lectern in our Saint Timothy Chapel, that it would cost about \$60, that it might well be given as a memorial to a loved one and that the first offer received would be gratefully accepted. It so happened that the first to respond were Mr. A. F. Geyer and daughters, all of Waterville, Kansas. And naturally they are those whose offer we accepted. But within the space of a very few days three additional offers came. These were from the Adult Bible Class, St. Peter's Church, Langdon, Mo.; Mr. and Mrs. Christian Himsel, Jasper, Ind., and the daughters of the late Dr. and Mrs. Holmes Dysinger. Heart warming indeed is such response.

But the aforesaid are not the only things so to affect us. Our list of contributions published elsewhere in this issue tell a part of the story—but only a part. The words accompanying the gifts and, in some cases at least, the knowledge of the circumstances amid which the gifts were made add significantly to the story. Then there are those who have already done much for the institution but who have indicated their desire and plan to do still more.

Nor can we forget the many things, little and big, about which one would seldom speak in detail. These include the observation of the spiritual and intellectual development and growth of the students, and their spirit of comradeship among themselves and with the faculty and staff, and the noting of the loyal devotion on the part of the members of the faculty and staff to their several spheres of responsibility, as well as (and perhaps especially) their harmonious working together for the worthy accomplishment of a common task.

Yet these, as heart warming as they are, are only chilling breezes when compared with the consciousness of the indisputable love of God for His unworthy children. That love, everywhere manifest, finds its full expression in the person and

work of Christ. The first stage in expression is the Incarnation—Immanuel—“God with us”. Heartwarming? We properly appreciated that truth can but set our hearts aflame.

Cordially yours

E. B. Keisler

SPECIAL GIFTS

We continue to be largely dependent upon the special gifts of individuals and these continue to remind us in a substantial and deeply appreciative way. Therefore, with genuine gratitude to everyone who shared in the gifts list the following:

GENERAL FUND

Intermediate Luther League	
Faith Lutheran Church,	
Prairie Village, Kans. The	
Rev. Wm. F. Most, Pastor	\$ 20
Mr. George Buttrou	10
Miss Sophia Zimmerman	50
Trinity Lutheran Missionary Society, Sioux City, Iowa. The	
Rev. Russell J. Olson, Pastor	10
The Rev. D. J. Adamcik	10
Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Sasse	10
Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Bickel	40
Ladies Aid, St. John Lutheran Church, Yutan, Nebr., The	
Rev. Karl Konig, Pastor	20
Mr. and Mrs. Chris Rogge	10
Mrs. Robert Latshaw	10
Dr. Paul C. White	10
Dr. and Mrs. Wm. F. Zimmerman	10
Aid Society Congregational Church, Beemer, Nebr.	10
Mr. and Mrs. J. Adam Reine-mund	100
Altar Guild, Trinity Lutheran Church, Raytown, Mo., The	
Rev. Art Miller, Pastor	10
Anonymous	
The Rev. J. N. Marxen	

SPECIAL FUND

Mr. A. F. Geyer and daughters	\$ 60
Mr. Kermit Wagner, and Mr. John Wagner	95

MEMORIALS

Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Durant, Oklahoma, The Rev. E. F. Heuser, Pastor	
A Friend—Through Grace Lutheran Church, West Point, Nebr. For: Mr. Hans Anderson	
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Weitzenkamp	
For: Mr. Louis Maack	

Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Block, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Fehrman, Mr. and Mrs. Olin Fehrman, Mr. Heibe and Viola Eilers, Mrs. Ervin Eilers	6.00
For: Mr. Bruce Cooper	
Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Sprieck.....	1.00
For: Mr. Charles Huth	
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Schroeder	1.00
For: Mr. Lyle Hupp	
Dr. and Mrs. A. B. J. Lentz	25.00
For Mr. and Mrs. James Monroe	
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Weitzenkamp	25.00
For: Daughter, Lela Faith	
Mr. Gustav H. Havekost, and Mr. and Mrs. George Havekost.....	3.00
For: Mrs. Herman Drieling	

LIBRARY

Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Carmany.....	\$ 50.00
Adult Bible Class, St. Peter Lutheran Church, Langdon, Mo., The Rev. C. J. Hansen, Pastor	60.00

THE DAY AFTER FINALS

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tered away into Nye and Colson. Even dorms are silent. All the boys and girls and the little ones have deserted and the faculty, after it is through erecting papers, will also settle down to enjoy the feast a few days away. This silence is hard to believe!

During the last few days of August, when the first semester started, there was hustle and bustle and that's the way it has been ever since—until now. Classes and chapel, quizzes and book reports kept everyone's feet from dragging. Once in a while a visiting speaker was heard and that was a welcome interlude—and always interesting. That's what it was, though, pleasant interlude. Progressive action must be continued!

On weekends, faculty members and students traveled hither and thither to serve congregations. Even some Juniors assisted during the U.L.C.A. convention. Little cars and big cars were going and coming, if not to carry a preacher with sermon within the props (it was ped), they took some of our men to student functions to such distant places as good ol' South Carolina.

The students held their formal meetings and so did the faculty—and so did the Board of Directors. Doors were open—and closed, the choir rehearsed, candles were properly lit and the altar paraments were changed according to the rubrics of the SBH. Progressive action—that's what was!

Our President started on his field trips and from what we heard he did more

traveling than the average man would care to do. But he came back long enough for the Board of Directors and the Faculty to show their appreciation of what he means to Central by presenting him with a beautifully worded testimonial. And for once, Dr. Keisler seemed to be at a loss for words at this surprise. Who wouldn't be?

Meanwhile, Marie, "Mom" and Brei (with his charming wife) never had a dull moment. As someone said: "The Sem was purring on all cylinders." Mrs. Buhr and Mrs. Jenny appeared every Monday and Wednesday with their coffee pot and cakes. The Centralettes held monthly meetings and the "Centralight" was published. So was the Seminary Bulletin. The end of the semester was drawing nigh! (Ministerial vocabulary for "It won't be long now".)

Just a couple of days ago, Prexy Pedersen of the student body and his stalwarts, supported by the chapel choir, presented their annual pre-Christmas service and party. The best ever! Then came the last day of school. Dr. Keisler led in Matins. The first semester has ended. It's hard to believe.

Yes, after all these weeks, the Juniors are half through; the Middlers will soon be Seniors and the Seniors will soon be doing what they've wanted to do for a long time, namely and to wit, serve the Church as ordained men. How time does fly.

How silent Time can be here at Central—during a holiday. No 'phones ringing, no chanting, no student voices and no faculty with vestments and schedules of one sort or another. It's quiet here during vacation.

We have been busy and healthy—thanks to God the Father. We'll miss all of you while you're away and we wish all of you the happiest festal-tide.

Enjoy the season and ring in the New Year with praise to God for His many blessings. Then come back on the Feast of the Epiphany (January 6 for those who have forgotten liturgics) with your happy voices, bright minds and interesting questions with correct answers. It's too quiet here!

DR. DORN VISITS

Among the recent visitors on our campus was the Rev. Dr. John George Dorn, class of 1915, now pastor emeritus of St. Mark's Church, San Francisco. Dr. Dorn was in these parts primarily to attend the centennial celebration of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church, Omaha, of which congregation he was associate pastor from 1919 to 1927.

The Central Seminary Bulletin

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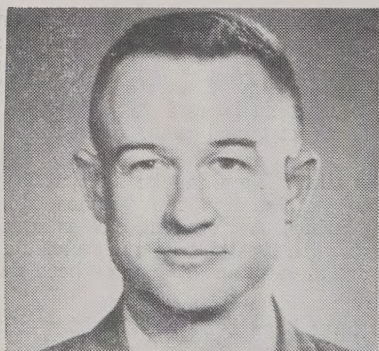
EDITOR: E. Bryan Keisler

PRE-LENTEN LECTURES

The 1959 series of the Pre-Lenten Lectures is set for January 27-29. The lecturers, here most briefly but proudly presented, will be:



Dr. Karl E. Mattson



Dr. Jerald C. Braurer



Dr. Harold C. Letts

All those interested, ministers or laymen, are cordially invited to attend. Fuller information may be had by addressing the Seminary.

The Library
Pacific Lutheran
2770 Marin Avenue
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CAPSULE COMMENTS

President Keisler's schedule called for his preaching each Sunday during December in a different state, all within Central's territory.

The current issue of The Lutheran Quarterly carried the names of Dr. Wesley J. Fuerst and Dr. Linss of our faculty. Dr. Fuerst had one of the leading articles, "The Word of God in the Old Testament" and Dr. Linss had an extended review of "A Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans" by C. K. Barrett.

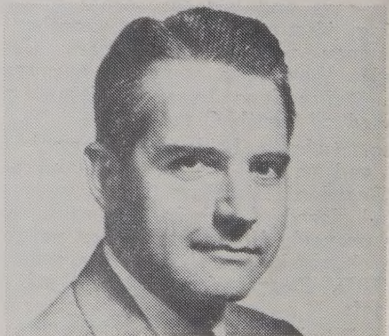
Dr. Thomas D. Rinde was the speaker at the dedication of the new education addition to Grace Church, West Point, to Rev. George P. Krebs, Pastor.

Holy baptism was administered to Andrew Hans Linss, son of Dr. and Mrs. Linss, in Salem Lutheran Church, Fremont, on November 27. Along with his parents, Professor and Mrs. Giesch were sponsors.

On November 30, in our Saint Timothy Chapel, Timothy John Chandler, son of Seminarian and Mrs. John R. Chandler, was baptized, Dr. Edward J. Mattson officiating. The sponsors included the Rev. and Mrs. Albert J. Shandrick and the child's paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. John T. Chandler, Denver, Colo.

As has been their custom for the past several years, the faculty, and staff and their spouses gathered on the last Friday evening of the semester for their Christmas dinner together. For the third consecutive year the turkey was provided by Dr. and Mrs. Thomas D. Rinde.

The last Monday chapel service in the last semester was conducted by Dr. E. W. H. Frederick, professor emeritus.



Dr. Richard O. Comfort